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masamune shirow's

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PART 5

STORY AND ART
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SUSANO!
YOU'RE UNDER MY CONTROL NOW!
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
SESKA!? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
STOP THAT OBSCENE CACKLING!
YE GODS!
UH...!
SILENCE IMPOSTER! SUSANO SUCH SILLY TRICKS WON'T SWAY ME!
HA HA
KOM
HA HA GYAA!

BKAM
FIRE!
FIRE!
BKAM
BKAM
BKAM
BKAM
SIR! THIS IS ONLY GAINING US A LITTLE TIME UNTIL THE NAGA FORMS!
DON'T WORRY! KEEP FIRING!! RELEASE JUMP TROOPS!
GCHAK
KRRRR
BAM WRAM

SKRASH
SKRAK
WHAM
WHRUD
EEK!
HUH?! IS A COUP D'ETAT?
SHOGUN! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
DR. HEBIME!!
WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON? IS HIS MAJESTY ZOKOKU ALL RIGHT?!
WE'RE CLOSING THE PALACE AND ACTIVATING THE NAGA SYSTEM! EVERYTHING EXCEPT THE CENTRAL AND INNER SANCTUARIES WILL BE AFFECTED SO YOU AND YOUR SHIPS HAVE TO CLEAR OUT OF HERE!

SKRASH
THAT CURSED SUSANO GOT AWAY AGAIN
TAKA-MAGA-HARA ?
ALL RIGHT - WHERE IS HE ?!
OKAY NAGA SYSTEM! I'M READY! ONCE YOU ACTIVATE I'LL FRY YOU WITH AN OCTOTRIGRAM !
DON'T YOU THINK WE SHOULD AD-JUST THE SETTINGS *AFTER* WE SEE HOW BIG IT IS ?
THE WATER ELEMENT'S WARPED!
EVERY-THING'LL BE WARPED BY THE MOON'S HARMONIC FORCE!

RMBBRMBBRMBBR
ALL JUMP TROOPS TAKE UP POSITIONS TO PROTECT HIS MAJESTY AND THEN WAIT FOR FURTHER ORDERS! DON'T LEAVE THE INNER SANCTUARY!
COME IN, DR HEBIME!
RME
HAVE WE REACHED 80 HARMONICS YET?
NO, SIR! STILL AT 78!
BUT AN OCTOPOLARIUM HAS APPEARED ON THE PERIPHERY OF THE IMPERIAL CITY!
ACCORDING TO INFORMATION FROM SPYSAT KH-3II, AN OCTOPOLARIUM 300 KI IN DIAMETER HAS APPEARED OVER THE PALACE...
THE DHARMA SEAL CENTER IS AN ACCUMULATIVE RISING TENDAI TYPE WITH THE BASE CUT OFF BY GROWTH HARMONICS!
THAT MEANS SOMETHING IS TRYING TO DISSOLVE THE NAGA'S EIGHTH ELEMENT AND SEAL IT!
HA HA HA HA!!
BROOF
EX-ACTLY WHAT I THOUGHT WOULD HAPPEN!

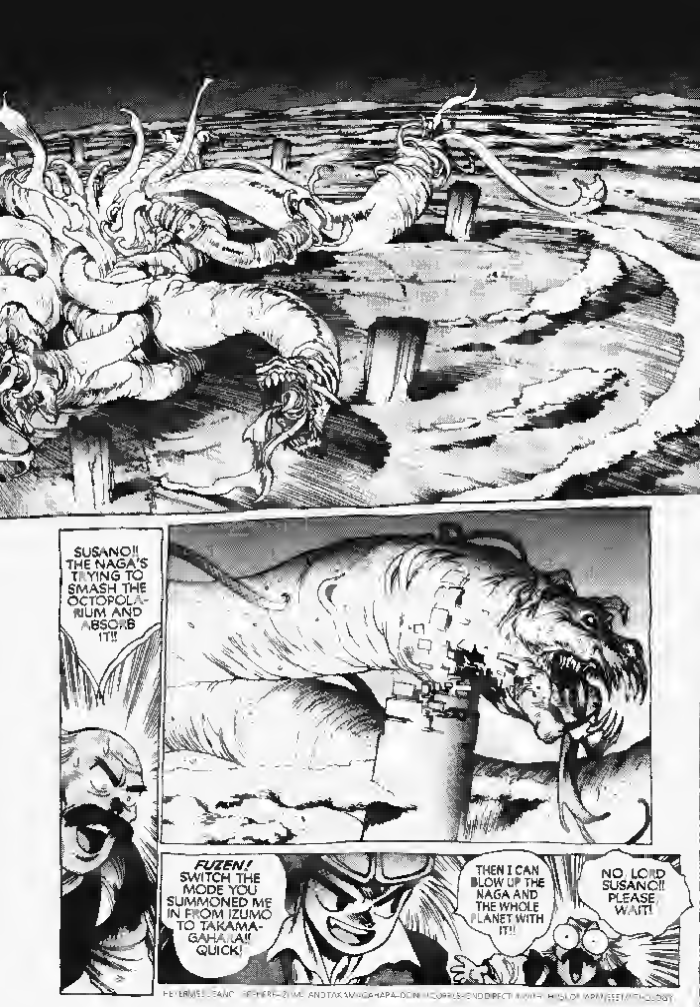
HE'S TRYING TO LINK HIS GROWTH HARMONIC WITH THE NAGA'S EIGHTH ELEMENT!
heh
heh
THAT'LL SWALLOW HIS OCTO-POLARIUM AND MAKE IT PART OF THE NAGA!
I SEE
NOT GOOD ENOUGH, O DEITY OF DARKNESS!
YA HA HA HA HA!
I WORRY ABOUT HER
FROM NOW ON, ALL DEITIES AND NAGAS WILL SUBMIT TO ME AND MY PSYCHO-SCIENCE!!
I'LL DESTROY ALL THE NEGATIVE KARMA IN THE WORLD, AND CREATE A PARADISE ON EARTH!
#1, ALL SYSTEMS GO.
#2, ALL SYSTEMS GO.
WMMMMMMM

FFFT
WHOOSH
WHMPHH

WHRAM
WHROOOM
HMPH. SUCH AN OP-PRES-SIVE SOUND
AAH. MY MORNING MAKEUP !
SILENCE!!!
B-B-BUT I DIDN'T SAY ANY-THING !
HERE IT COMES !!
AND IT'S A BIG ONE !

WAY TOO BIG TO FRY!
IT'S A SUPER-NAGA!
AND THIS THING IS GOING TO SUCK UP THE BAD KARMA AND GET EVEN BIGGER?!
I'M AMAZED THEY COULD GENERATE SUCH A MONSTER JUST USING VAJRA NAGA RITUALS AND REGULAR EARTH-BOUND NAGA DRAGONS!*
THIS PSYCHO-SCIENCE STUFF WORKS BETTER THAN I THOUGHT
WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!?
WHY DID WE HAVE TO BE SUMMONED FROM THE VAJRA CUSP FOR THIS? SOMETHING THIS BIG OUGHTA BE DESTROYED DIRECTLY BY THE FORCES OF HEAVEN!
YEAH, EVEN THE MAJOR DEITIES WOULD AGREE!
HEY!

* FROM THE PERFECT, PERFECT AND PROPER THE NAGAS ACTUALLY WORK SECRETLY IN THE BACKGROUND


SUSANO!! THE NAGA'S TRYING TO SMASH THE OCTOPLA-RIUM AND ABSORB IT!!
FUZEN! SWITCH THE MODE YOU SUMMONED ME IN FROM IZUMO TO TAKAMA-GAHA...AI! QUICK!
THEN I CAN BLOW UP THE NAGA AND THE WHOLE PLANET WITH IT!!
NO, LORD SUSANO!! PLEASE WAIT!

HEY, BRUCE LEE, ANC... SEPHER-ZIMME, AND TAKAMAGAHARA-OOMI-NO-KAMI ARE INCORRUPTIBLE AND DIRECTLY WITHIN THE GOLDEN ARM. SEE ET AMYTHOLOGY

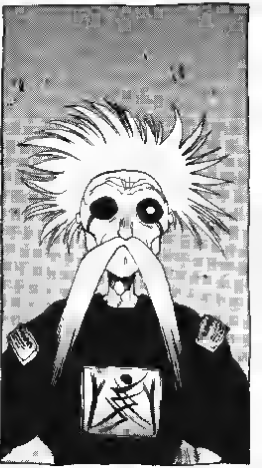
HYAHA HA HA HA
HA HA

I DID IT! NOW THE WORLD'LL BE PURIFIED! NEGATIVE KARMA AND BAD LUCK WILL BE ELIMINATED! PEACE AND HARMONY ARE AT HAND!

AAH I'VE WAITED SO LONG FOR THIS MOMENT!
FSST
DR HEBIME! EVERYTHING FROM SOUTH SECTOR 12 TO EAST 145 HAS DISAPPEARED!

SIR! EAST 205 HAS --
SIR! THERE'S A REPORT NORTH 4 HAS DISAPPEARED
WEST 52 --
SOUTH 37 --

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU YAPPING ABOUT?
BUT
BUT SIR, THE ENTIRE EMPIRE'S DISINTEGRATING!



KRAAMMBKROMMM

SOME THING WRONG WITH THE TARGETING HARMO NIC ?
FUNC TION- ING NOR- MALLY SIR!
THE EYE HARMONIC S BEEN TRANS- FERRED TO HIS MAJESTY S ADVISOR SESKA SIR! WE CAN'T CONTROL IT FROM HERE ANYMORE

W-W-
WHAT?!

THE ENTIRE YAMATA EMPI E'S BEING SWAL- LOWED BY THE SUPER- NAGA
TRYING TO HIDE IN THERE EH? FOOLS!
SESKA! YOU'VE GOT TO BREAK THE SPELL OR THE WHOLE EMPIRE LL BE SWALLOWED UP!
WHO US ?
THE NAGA REACTOR S DESIGNED TO SUCK UP EVIL AND DISINTE GRATE IT!
THEN YOU OUGHTA BE THE FIRST THING TO GO
UH-LL SHOCK DOME REVERSAL

O HONORABLE ADVISOR! THE NINE-HEADED NAGA'S RUNNING AMUCK! WE'VE GOT TO TEMPORARILY SHUT DOWN THE REACTOR!
HA! ANOTHER CLONE TRICK EH? CAN'T SUSANO THINK OF ANYTHING BETTER?
I TOLD YOU BEFORE I'M NOT DOING THAT!
ARRG
ACTUALLY I DON'T THINK YOU DO
MASTER FUZEN!
TRUCE! I NEED YOUR HELP IN DEACTIVATING THE REACTOR!
THUD
SMAKKA SMAKKA SMAKKA
OKAY TRUCE IT IS. THEN
UBBA BORK EEP
HAH! A SPELL THAT TAKES 52 PSYCHES TO ACTIVATE CAN'T BE STOPPED THAT EASILY!
ESPECIALLY NOT WITHOUT MY PERMISSION!

YOU'RE GOING TO FUSE WITH MY SPELL AND CONTRIBUTE TO WORLD PEACE!!
WHOOSH
OH NO! GOTTA STOP HER!
WHAT THE?!
I'LL TEACH YOU FOOLS TO TOY WITH THE NAGA REACTOR!
HA-HA!!
SIC 'EM
NGRR

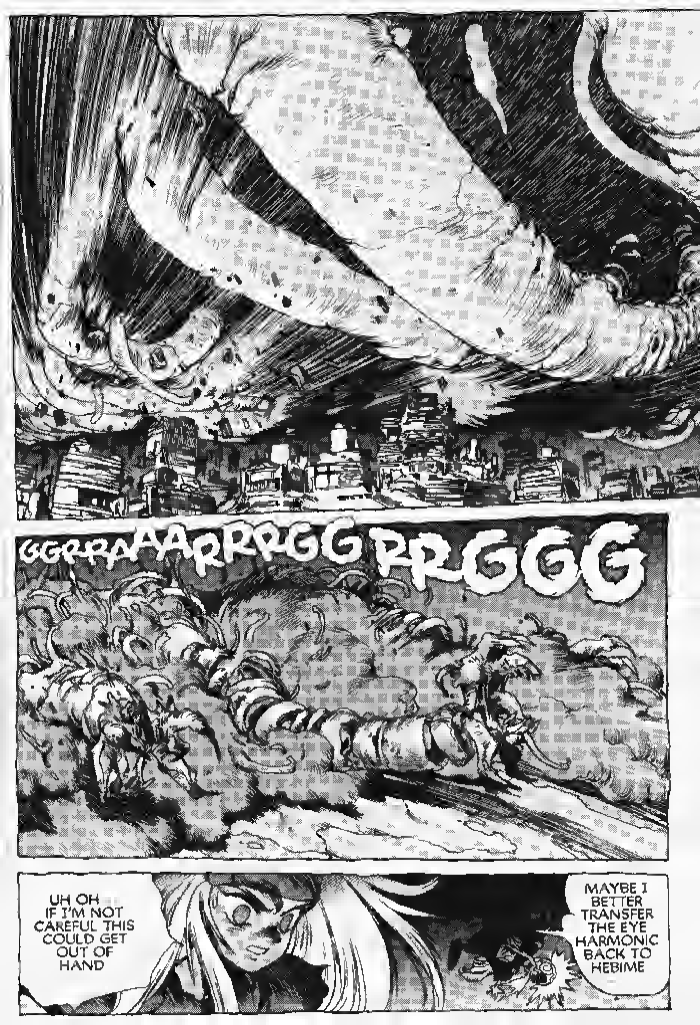
SHUURRP
YEOW!
SUSANO !!
SU-
NNGGRRRAAA

URP!
DON'T WORRY FUZEN! I'LL SEPARATE YOU LATER!
THERE'S GONNA BE NO *LATER* FOR YOU BUSTER!
OH YEAH!
BROOOM
HOW DARE YOU TALK LIKE THAT TO A TRUE GOD?! DON'T THINK YOU'RE SUCH HOT STUFF DEARIE!!

'CAUSE I'M GETTING PISSED OFF !!
WHAM

GRRAR RGGHH

NYA HAHA
SERVES YA RIGHT

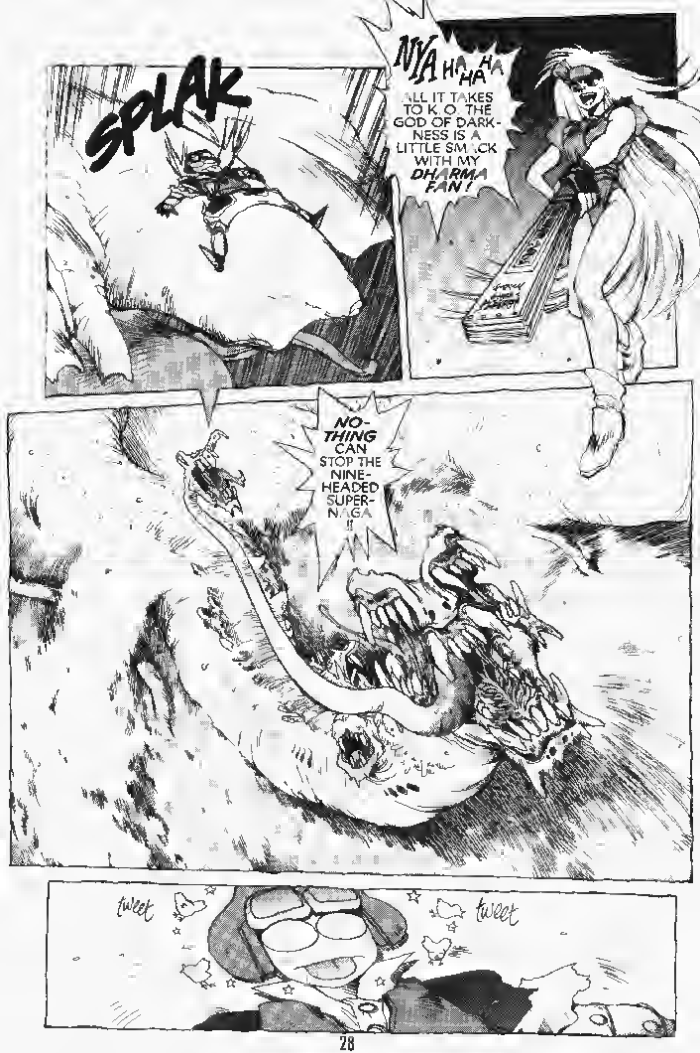

GGRRAAARRRGGRRGGG
UH OH... IF I'M NOT CAREFUL THIS COULD GET OUT OF HAND
MAYBE I BETTER TRANSFER THE EYE HARMONIC BACK TO HEBIME

!
FZZZK
ZZZKKKZZZ
HA HA HA!
SEE? YOU CAN'T DISSOLVE THE PSYCHO HARMONICS BY FORCE!
ONLY TRUE BUDDHA-FORCE GODS CAN DO THAT !!
NAW, I WAS JUST SHOWING A LITTLE RESTRAINT I GOTTA LIVE UP TO MY REPUTATION IN THE MYTHS AFTER ALL
Hmm
OH

WELL ANYWAY YOU STILL AREN'T STRONG ENOUGH TO DESTROY THE NAGA SYSTEM!
AND BESIDES I'VE STILL GOT TO PAY YOU BACK FOR WHAT YOU DID TO ME AT TENDAI!!
WHO?
ME?
HEH HEH
DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE FORGOTTEN?
TIME TO REMEMBER!
SWAKK

MOON TALK
OUCH!
WHUD
I'M COMING AFTER YOU SUSANO!
GEE, I DIDN'T KNOW THE MOON WAS THIS CLOSE
HOW 'BOUT THAT...
OH, NO!
HYAA!!
WHAK
WHAK
WHAK

WHSSSH
WHB
WHRAM
HSSH!


SPLAK
NYA HA HA HA
ALL IT TAKES TO K.O. THE GOD OF DARKNESS IS A LITTLE SMACK WITH MY DHARMA FAN!
NO-THING CAN STOP THE NINE-HEADED SUPER-NAGA !!
tweet
tweet

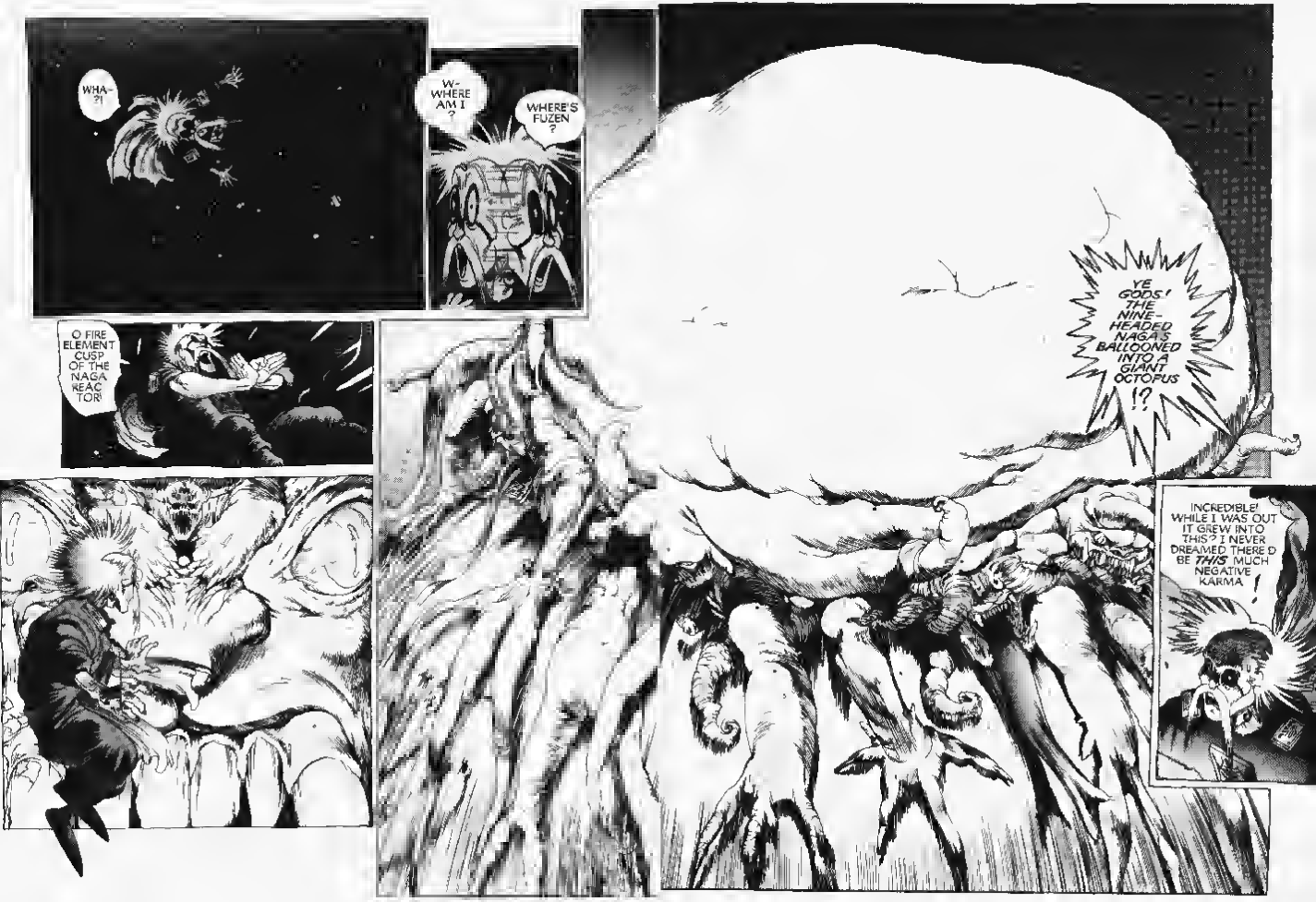
WAIT A MINUTE-- I'VE STILL GOT WORK TO DO!
HYA!
OWW...
WHILE THE NAGA REACTOR'S BUSY COLLECTING NEGATIVE KARMA FROM PLANETS THROUGHOUT THE GREATER GALAXY EMPIRE I NEED YOU OUT OF THE PICTURE!! BEGONE!
FWAP
GMRFF ?

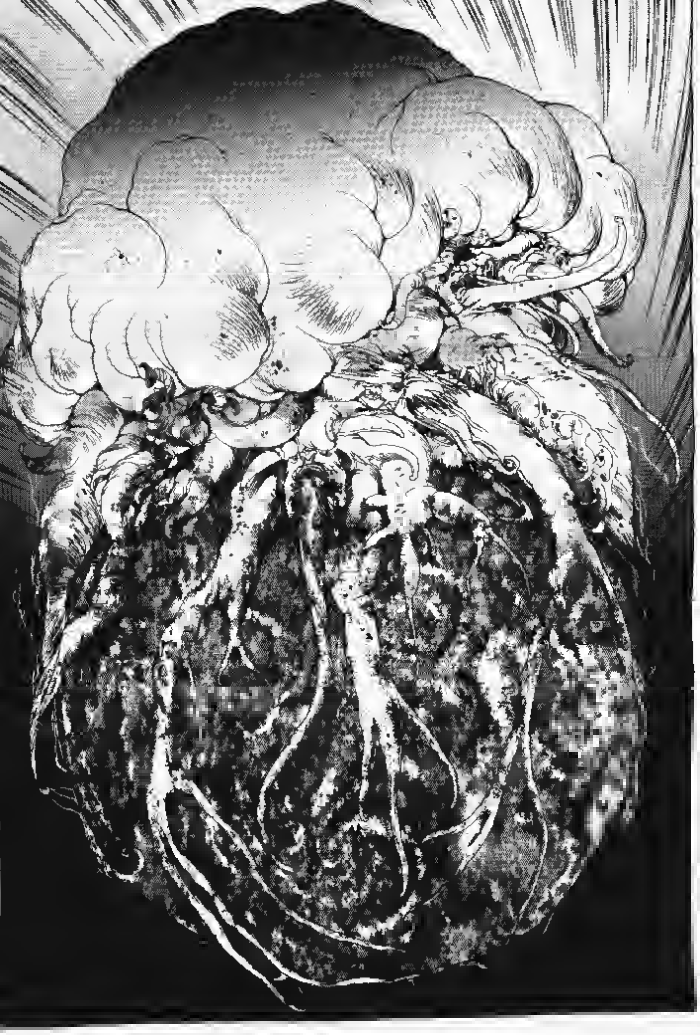
BKOOM
SNIFF
SEE YA LATER-ALLY GATOR!
HA HA HA
NICE KNOWIN' YA!
NYA HA
HA
FWMP

WHRROOOMM
GRRRRRRRRR
AT LAST THAT MEDDLER'S OUT OF THE WAY
O SUPERNAGA! SWALLOW ALL THE NEGATIVE KARMA IN THE GALAXY EMPIRE !
SH
SSSS

GRRAARR-RR
WHRROOOMM

IMAGINE! NEGATIVE KARMA COLLECTING HERE FROM 25.6 BILLION PEOPLE ON 32 PLANETS AND FOUR STAR CLUSTERS IN THE GREATER GALAXY EMPIRE
FZZK
WHAT AN INCREDI-BLE MASS!
AND IF I PUT A SPELL ON IT, IT'LL BE SEALED UP AND INCINERATED!
WITH THIS MANY PSYCHS STORED UP, I COULD CONTROL THE WHOLE EMPIRE...


WHA-?!
W-WHERE AM I?
WHERE'S FUZEN?
O FIRE ELEMENT CUSP OF THE NAGA REAC TOR!
YE GODS! THE NINE-HEADED NAGAS BALLOONED INTO A GIANT OCTOPUS !?
INCREDIBLE! WHILE I WAS OUT IT GREW INTO THIS? I NEVER DREAMED THERE'D BE *THIS* MUCH NEGATIVE KARMA!



KRROOMM!!
SHOMPP
WHAM! WHAM!
SOME SORT OF INCREDIBLE PSYCHOMASS IS BREAKING INTO THE PALACE!
OUR DHARMA BOMBS WON'T WORK ON ANYTHING THAT CAN GET PAST THE SPELL BARRIERS! RETREAT! RETREAT!
AIEEE!
WHY MUST IT COME AFTER US? DOES IT LUST AFTER MY PHYSICAL BEAUTY?
HERE YOUR MAJESTY! PUT THIS PROTECTIVE CLOAK ON!
I'VE GOT A SPECIAL PROTECTIVE DHARMA CIRCLE FROM THE TENDAI NAGA RITUALS IN MY ROOM! LET'S GO THERE!

WHRAMM
SKRAK
FDO
BRTTTTT
BLAM BLAM BLAM
GET HIS MAJESTY INTO THE DHARMA CIRCLE!
AND YOU GUYS STAY OUT OF IT!
DR HEBIME! COME IN, HEBIME!!
SHOGUN! YOU'RE ALL RIGHT! WHAT A MESS EH?
IT'S BROKEN THROUGH TO THE NO. 7 INTERFACE! OUR DHARMA BOMBS DON'T WORK! DO SOMETHING!
THAT FUZE CLAN WITCH IS CONTROLLING THE MAIN NAGA REACTOR!
BUT THE DHARMA-QUATION HERE SHOWS YOU'RE IN CONTROL OF THE MAIN HARMONIC!
WHAT?!
YOU'RE KIDDING! THIS COULD BE MY CHANCE THEN!
NAGA REACTOR ALTAR COME IN!
WHAP
OPEN THE REACTOR HARMONIC AND SHUT IT DOWN TEMPORARILY!
VREEP VREEP VREEP

SORRY BUT YOU CAN'T DO THAT HEBIME !
I JUST GOT CONTROL OF THE MAIN HARMONIC A SECOND AGO.
WHAT?!
DON'T BE SO UPSET.. IF YOU HELP ME, I MIGHT MAKE YOU MY COURT ADVISOR
YA HA HA HA
TAKE MY WORD ON IT-- YOU'RE TALKING TO THE FUTURE EMPRESS OF THE GREATER GALAXY EMPIRE!
SAY WHAT?!

YOU'RE KIDDING! YOU PLAN TO REVOLT AGAINST THE ENTIRE EMPIRE?
KIDDING SHMIDDING!
I KNOW YOU WERE PL/ANNING THE SAME THING HEHIME!
BESIDES IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR THE TENDAI NAGA RITUALS THERE NEVER WOULD HAVE BEEN A GALAXY EMPIRE!
WE'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT YOUR GARDEN VARIETY REVOLT HERE!
I'VE GOT AN ANTI-TREASON CIRCUIT IMPLANTED IN MY BRAIN. BUT EVEN IF I DIDN'T I'D BE DAMNED IF I'D COOPERATE WITH THE FUZE CLAN!
WELL IN THAT CASE YOU'RE JUST GOING TO HAVE TO TAKE A NAP. A LONG NAP
BKOM
EEP!!
RMBB
RMBB
RMBB
RMBB
RMBB

HOLD IT!!
WHAT THE HELL ?!
TO BE CONCLUDED!